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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,546	01/15/2004	Shinji Mori	740165-369	3068
25570 7590 10/15/2007 ROBERTS, MLOTKOWSKI & HOBBS P. O. BOX 10064 MCLEAN, VA 22102-8064			EXAMINER HAUGLAND, SCOTT J	
			ART UNIT 3654	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 10/15/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/757,546

Applicant(s)

MORI ET AL.

Examiner

Scott Haugland

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 May 2007 and 30 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The language of claim 20, lines 10-11 is unclear. It appears that "is disposed between" should be deleted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-11, 15-18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanada et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4,787,569).

Kanada et al discloses a webbing belt retractor for vehicle use comprising: a frame having a pair of leg plates (20 and a parallel portion of 105) facing one another

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and a back plate integral with the leg plates, a rotatable spool 22 disposed between the leg plates to which the webbing belt 24 is anchored and around which the webbing belt is wound, a driving mechanism (50, 52, 49) disposed between the leg plates and having an output shaft for rotating the spool in at least a take-up direction, and a clutch 33 disposed between the leg plates, mechanically interposed between the output shaft and the spool, and transmitting rotation of the output shaft to the spool.

With regard to claim 18, Kanada et al discloses an electric motor (col. 5, lines 1-16).

With regard to claim 20, no portion of the driving mechanism extends beyond the leg plate 20 and the leg plate 105 parallel to 20 (note Fig. 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanada et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4,787,569).

Kanada et al is described above.

Kanada et al does not disclose an endless belt training on peripheral surfaces of the output shaft side gear and the clutch side gear.

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Kanada et al with a endless belt trained on peripheral surfaces of an output shaft side gear and a clutch side gear to reduce the cost of the retractor since it is old and well known to transmit drive using gears and an endless belt trained around them and official notice is hereby taken of such.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanada et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4,787,569) in view of Rogers, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,445,604).

Kanada et al is described above.

Kanada et al does not disclose a worm gear in the driving force transmitting mechanism.

Rogers, Jr. teaches transmitting drive from a motor to a clutch in a seat belt mechanism using meshing gears 48, 52. 48 is a worm gear.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Kanada et al with meshing gears including a worm gear between the drive motor and clutch as taught by Rogers, Jr. to provide the required speed reduction with fewer parts, reducing size and cost of the retractor.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed 5/7/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that Kanada et al does not disclose or suggest a clutch disposed between a pair of leg plates and that the ends of the spool are not mounted in the leg plates in Kanada et al. However, the plates 20 and 105 of Kanada et al are seen to be leg plates. These are the only two plates in Kanada et al in which the ends of the spool are rotatably mounted and between which the driving mechanism lies. Note portion 32a of spool that is rotatable in plate 105.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Haugland whose telephone number is (571) 272-6945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on (571) 272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


sjh
10/3/07


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